(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Amount of assistance provided to	
	Gujarat	Maharashtra
1990-91	634.24	952.96
1991-92	141.84	1590.24
1992-93	174.03	872.56

Removal of cotton monopoly procurement

608. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government envisage to introduce liberalisation in agricultural sector too;

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken by Government to remove cotton monopoly precurement in view if the liberalisation;

(c) if so, deta ils thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution which has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and placed in Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1993 focusses an reforms in certain areas of the Agricultural Sector.

(b) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra had introduced a Scheme of Monopoly Procurement of Cotton in the State with effect from 1972-73. The Scheme helps in the promotion of the Cooperative spirit and eliminating middlemen to ensure remunerative prices to the growers by strengthening the cooperative network. The Scheme is reviewed and extended by the Govt. from time to time. It is currently effective upto 30th June, 1994.

Micro-Dimensional problems of textile workers

609. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) What are micro-dimensional problems faced by the textile workers all over the country state-wise during the last three years;

(b) What are the micro-dimensional difficulties faced by them in specific areas of each state;

(c) Whether these difficulties have been examined by Government so far;

(d) if so, the suggestions made by the representatives of the textile workers fo rectification; and

(e) the steps taken by Govt. in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Some of the problems being faced by the textile workers all over the country relate to poor working conditions such as noise pollution in weavig sheds, poor lighting and ventilation, low wages, inadequate social welfare facilities etc. Additionally, the workers also suffer from health problems.

(c) Some of the above difficulties have been examined by the Govern-

mnt and the Government has introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. during 1992-93. The workers has ensured that a sum of Rs. 10,000 based on an annual premium of Rs. 120/- which they share between the Central Government, and the workers. A Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund was also set up to provide relief to workers of closed mills. Since the inception of the Scheme on 15th Sept. 1986, 33754 workers belonging to 23 mills have been paid relief totalling Rs. 64.49 crores till 25th November, 1993.

(d) and (e) Many of the micro-dimensional problems relate to the State Government with whom the Centre is constantly in touch to find a solution to these problems.

Implementation of handlooms (reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

610. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have not been taking interest in the implementation of Handlooms) Reservation of Articles for Producton) Act, 1985;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments have expressed difficulies in implementating the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir Consequent upon the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated February 5, 1993 upholding the validity of the Act, necessary directions have been issued to the State Governments. The governments are in the process of gearing up their enforcement machinery for effective implementation of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain States have sought for Central Assistance for setting up of enforcement machinery.

(d) Government of India is regularly monitoring the progress and is in touch with the State authorities to ensure effective implementation of the said Act. Central assistance is also being given for setting up of enforcement machineries in the State Governments as and when proposals are received in accordance with the guidelines.

Setting up of a Giant Free Trade Zone by European and American Textile Industries

611. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the move by European and American textile industries to set up a giant free zone for garments and fabrics; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that in case this is done it is likely to hit severely the textile exports from India; and

(c) if so, what advance planning is proposed to be undertaken toward off such dangers in order to protect textile exports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Government are aware of press reports suggesing that a free